

Coordinator Catch-ups: Local responses to Covid-19

10:00 - 11:30 every Wednesday

Agenda

- **Welcome and programme updates**
- **Food Power gathering, Simon Shaw, Food Power/Sustain**
- **An update on the Agriculture Bill and farming sector, Vicki Hird, Sustain**
- **Local partnership in action: Food Durham; Markets & supporting producers in Northumberland, Peter Samson, Food Durham**
- **Food for Good Coalition in Edinburgh, Simon Kenton-Lake, Nourish**
- **AOBs**






Agriculture policy under a pandemic

Vicki hird

@vickihird

27 May 2020

A faded, grayscale background image of a tractor, showing the front cab and large rear tire, positioned on the right side of the slide.

Agriculture Bill

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- 2.5 years after the consultation
 - Some really valuable changes to how we support farmers
 - Public money for public benefits
 - Ancillary support
 - Fair dealing and transparency in supply chain
 - Third Reading with MPs in May – no amendments
 - Goes to House of Lords 10 June
 - BIG issues – trade standards, public health, regulatory baselines, funding and overall framework – lacks accountability



Labour crises

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- Current issues due to covid-19 and in general
 - UK workers 1 fifth 'efficiency' of migrant
 - Not UK only
 - Brexit 1st Jan 2021 – major problem
 - More fundamental reforms needed in supply chain
 - Farmers get 8% of food £ spent and take much of the risks
 - Can we build more but better food enterprises with, family friendly, quality work?

Resilience in farming and food

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- Supporting local food producers and infrastructure
 - Promoting great food providers – buy local, buy better
 - Building capacity eg peri-urban growing, agroecological, new trading platforms
 - Policies: A regional food supply chain promotion and infrastructure (abattoirs, hubs, storage, milling); farm support; Training and advice and facilitation; dynamic procurement.

6 tips

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1. Support local farmers, fishers, bakers and farm initiatives where you can by buying from them on-line
 2. Be patient if there are glitches. No one has done this kind of transformation before on such a scale.
 3. Waste no food.
 4. Consider working on a farm if you can and have free time now.
 5. Join and Support campaigns and local initiatives